

for a clear explanation of how the Department of Defense divides authority among all its various investigative arms in these sexual assault cases.

I have had to ask these questions because DOD and the Department of State have not been forthcoming. Yet what is being told by some of these assault victims is absolutely horrifying. For example: One female contractor employee, during cocktail conversation, suddenly, totally, passed out. Apparently, her drink had been spiked. She awoke to find out she had been assaulted many times. Upon seeing a military doctor, in fact, that was confirmed and the rape kit was prepared. But when the rape kit was turned over to the contractor, it amazingly disappeared. The evidence disappeared. That contract employee then, upon asking questions, was locked in a container and could not get out of the container to go and tell her story to other personnel of her contractor, and she only got out because she was able to persuade someone to let her use a cell phone to call her father back in the United States. That is how she got out of her confinement.

Now, if all of that is true, there is simply no excuse for this. But what we need to determine is the truth. It is a shame that the senior Senator from Florida has to come to the floor of the Senate to elevate this issue in order to say to the Department of Defense and the Department of State that we want the answers to our questions.

I have asked the questions. I expect, on behalf of the Congress of the United States, that we will get the answers.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time during the quorum be equally divided between the two sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I spoke earlier this morning, so I will be brief.

It would appear that the Senate is poised to pass a measure that would end the debate over torture in our Nation. It would require the CIA to follow the Army Field Manual when it comes to interrogations of detainees, and it would create a uniform standard for interrogation across the Government. It would prohibit waterboarding and cer-

tain other coercive interrogation techniques. I deeply believe it will go a long way toward restoring our Nation's credibility.

I have spoken with experts on interrogation, numerous retired three and four star generals, and human rights leaders. From our discussions, I am absolutely convinced that we must have a uniform standard for interrogation of detainees across the Government. That is what putting the CIA under the Army Field Manual would do.

This debate is about values. We are a nation of values, and we believe in the rule of law. It is fair to say that America has been diminished around the world. Our standing is at an all-time low, not only among our allies but also our enemies. This comes from Abu Ghraib. It comes from Guantanamo. It comes from renditions, and it comes from black sites. It comes from waterboarding, a technique used during the Spanish Inquisition to get religious dissenters to publicly disavow their beliefs.

Let me give one example of why a clear, single standard for all detainee interrogation is needed.

Until a couple of weeks ago, the executive branch refused to admit that it had waterboarded anyone.

Then last week, at a public hearing, General Hayden stated that the CIA has waterboarded three detainees: Abu Zubaydah, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. General Hayden said this was done in the past and would not be used in the future.

In fact, General Hayden said that waterboarding itself was no longer necessary. These were two major revelations. The U.S. Government had, in fact, authorized waterboarding, and we weren't going to do it again.

The very next day, a White House spokesman, Tony Fratto, said the President could reauthorize the use of waterboarding at any time. At this point, we had returned to a state of confusion. The CIA was saying waterboarding was not authorized and not needed. The White House was saying waterboarding was still on the table.

That was not the end. The very next day, General Hayden testified in open session again, this time in front of the House Intelligence Committee. Here is what he said:

In my own view, the view of my lawyers and the Department of Justice, it is not certain that that technique—

Meaning waterboarding—

would be considered lawful under current statute. . . .

So here you have a mix of views. Here you have unclear American policy.

The bill which we have before us today clears up that confusion, and it states once and for all what the U.S. Government would do; that there would be 19 specific approaches documented over many pages for each approach in this volume, and 8 specific

techniques that are banned, one of which is waterboarding.

So we have the opportunity today to take a stand—to clear the air and to say that the U.S. Government follows uniform specific standards for interrogation of detainees as put forward by the Army Field Manual.

I would like to quote a statement the President of the United States—President Bush—made on June 22, 2004. Here is his quote:

We do not condone torture. I have never ordered torture. I will never order torture. The values of this country are such that torture is not a part of our soul and our being.

President Bush, if you stand by these words, you will sign this intelligence authorization bill.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, how much time do I have left out of the 5 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A minute and a half.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, if I may, I very much would like to thank a few people who have been very helpful in this whole thing. The first is David Grannis, my intelligence liaison, who has been with me all the way. I thank the Partnership for a Secure America and the 18 former national security officials who wrote in support of the Army Field Manual.

I thank Senators HAGEL and SNOWE for taking a stand for what is right for America in the Intelligence Committee. I thank our chairman, Senator ROCKEFELLER, for being willing to risk the passage of this legislation by supporting this very important amendment.

I also thank Senator WHITEHOUSE. He offered this amendment when it was in the Senate Intelligence Committee. I thank him for his tireless efforts in support of this conference report. I have seen him on the Senate floor at least twice today. He was a cosponsor of the amendment I offered in the conference, and I know his staff has been very effective in working on this amendment.

I thank Senator TOM CARPER of Delaware who has done a lot of work on this issue on the telephone.

I thank my colleague and friend, Senator RON WYDEN, who came earlier to the floor to speak on this issue.

So there have been many people working toward this vote, and it looks as if it may just happen. I would like them to know that we are very grateful for their support.

Oh, one more: Senator FEINGOLD. Senator FEINGOLD was a cosponsor